



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Fire Island National Seashore Releases Environmental Assessment for Short-term Community Storm Surge Protection Plan

Patchogue, NY— The National Park Service announces the release of an environmental assessment that describes and analyzes the impacts of various types of projects that Fire Island communities may wish to consider before the end of 2005, to address beach change or erosion processes in order to protect structures from storm damage and flooding. The *Fire Island National Seashore Short-term Community Storm Surge Protection Plan Environmental Assessment* (EA) analyzes proposals related to beach scraping and beach nourishment.

Of the 32 miles of shoreline within Fire Island National Seashore, only the 6 miles within the designated communities' property would be considered for such projects under this EA. No projects will be allowed which will preclude the implementation of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Plan (FIMP) or lead to the building of structures in violation of New York State's Coastal Erosion Hazard Area regulations, and/or the Federal Dune District.

The environmental assessment has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws, policies, and regulations to evaluate the impacts of the project on the human environment and provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the project.

The Northeast Regional Director will make a determination concerning whether or not the project would result in significant impacts on the human environment. If the project would not significantly impact the human environment, the Regional Director will issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact." If the project would significantly impact the human environment, the Regional Director will issue a "Notice of Intent" to prepare an environmental impact statement.

The environmental assessment is available for review at the Patchogue-Medford Library, South Country Library in Bellport, and Shirley-Mastic-Moriches Community Library as well as on the park web site (www.nps.gov/fiis/BeachEA6-3-03.pdf).

(more)

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Comments on this environmental assessment will be accepted by Fire Island National Seashore through July 7, 2003. The National Park Service will receive comments via fax, overnight mail, regular mail and via the Park's website email address. All comments should be addressed to: Dave Spirtes, Superintendent, Fire Island National Seashore, 120 Laurel Street, Patchogue, New York 11772-3596.

Fire Island National Seashore was established as a National Seashore in 1964 for the purpose of conserving and preserving for the use of future generations relatively unspoiled and undeveloped beaches, dunes, and other natural features as examples of unspoiled areas of great natural beauty. The National Park Service is charged to "administer and protect the Fire Island National Seashore with the primary aim of conserving the natural resources located there," (Public Law 88-587). Information about the national seashore may be obtained from the park web site at www.nps.gov/fiis or by calling (631) 289-4810.